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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/734,057	12/11/2000	Jianying Hu	Matias 15-8-3-20	3729
27997	7590	06/08/2004	EXAMINER	
PRIEST & GOLDSTEIN PLLC 5015 SOUTHPARK DRIVE SUITE 230 DURHAM, NC 27713-7736			RIMELL, SAMUEL G	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2175	3

DATE MAILED: 06/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/734,057

Applicant(s)

HU ET AL.

Examiner

Sam Rimell

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,20 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Art Unit: 2175

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gusack (U.S. Patent 6,356,897).

Claim 1: Reference is made to FIG. 9 and its associated explanation at col. 15, lines 27-53. FIG. 9 illustrates a series of database indexes that are hierarchically related. The hierarchical configuration defines a tree because the names index (905) is a root node that is linked to distinct branch nodes and leaf nodes. For example, the CLTF-Index (913) is a branch node to the Names Index root node (905) and the Memory Buffer (919) is a leaf node to the branch node. The tree is considered a binary tree since the underlying data supporting the nodes is digital data, which is binary in nature.

A table row can be segregated by simply highlighting that row, as seen from the highlighted row "Cook, Stephanie" in table 905. The programming which allows this selection to be made is a "row determination algorithm".

Multiple table columns can be segregated, as seen from the highlighted column portions in tables (913) and (919) which are triggered by the selection of a name in table (905). Portions of the columns "L1#", "L2#", "Phone" and "L#" are highlighted. The algorithm which triggers the highlighting is considered a breadth first traversal algorithm, lacking any further detail on what this algorithm actually does.

Art Unit: 2175

Column headers, such as “Last Name” and “First Name”, and row headers, such as “Cook” or “Geld” exist within the tables. The algorithm which created these tables are readable as heuristic algorithms, lacking any further detail on what these algorithms actually do.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Egan et al. (U.S. Patent 6,356,888).

Claim 20: FIG. 4 of Egan et al. illustrates a database table. The database table includes a first list of keywords, such as “Row#”, “Location”, “Department” and “Building”. These are readable as Acells in the table.

The programming of the computer recognizes the SQL language (col. 1, line 16 and col. 2, lines 54-56). The programming which supports the SQL language inherently stores the list of standard commands used when making a SQL query, such as “SELECT”, “DISTINCT” and “FROM” used in SQL and further illustrated in FIG. 8. These keywords determine query actions that retrieve data from the table.

FIG. 8, box 800 illustrates a SQL query. The query is parsed for syntax errors and the field names are verified (col. 4, lines 45-49). This means that the commands in the query (the action words such as SELECT and FROM) are parsed and analyzed and the field names (the Acells “Location” and “Department”) are parsed and analyzed.

Art Unit: 2175

Claim 21: In the table of FIG. 4, the first list of keywords "Location" and "Department" are within the box regions of the table. One of the first list of keywords, "Row#" is considered to be in a stub region (corner) of the table.

Claims 2-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sam Rimell at telephone number (703) 306-5626.



Sam Rimell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2175